# Request for House History for 310 N. Second Street, Fairbury

**Research Performed by:** **Dale C. Maley**
**Last Updated:** **February 4, 2024**

**Complete Title/Abstract**

Up until about 1968, each time a house was sold, a title/abstract search was done to see who owned the lot (not the house) from the time the land was first surveyed (typically around 1837 in Fairbury), and who first bought the land from the U.S. Government. The chain of ownership of the lot was documented until the date of the sale of the house/lot.

If a house/lot were transferred using a Will, a copy of the Will was included in the document. These complete title/abstracts got to be very thick, often 40+ pages. They were discontinued around 1968.

Many people did not realize what the thick old document was, so they threw it away. A few people have kept these old documents. They are a “gold mine” with respect to determining the history of a house and its lot. Only about three of these documents are known to exist for Fairbury houses or businesses. I have copies of these 3 documents.

Without the complete title/abstract document, house history is almost impossible to determine. There are no computer databases or house history in Livingston County. It would take someone several days to search the old transaction books at the old Courthouse in Pontiac, so nobody does it.

**Livingston County Tax Assessor Web Site for Year Built**

This database is over 90% accurate with respect to the year a house was built. If a house was moved (like from the Village of Avoca to Fairbury), the records are not correct.

For 310 N. Second, this database shows the house was built in 1900.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY ASSESSOR

Assessor Hub provided by Vanguard Appraisals, Inc

Home | Real Estate Searc

Parcel Number: 25-25-03-402-007
Deed Holder: HUBER TIMOTHY D & DAWN C
Property Address: 310 N 2ND ST
FAIRBURY, IL 61739-0000 MAP THIS ADDRESS
Class: RESIDENTIAL
Map Area: FAIRBURY CORP
Legal Description: 25 03 402 007 LOT 125 X 80 N80' E1/2 LOT 12 & N80' OF LOTS 13 & 14 BLK 38 CITY OF FAIRBURY
Property Report: PROPERTY REPORT (PDF FILE)

Tax Information: TAX INFORMATION

**Tentative 2023 Assessed Values**

| N/F Land Value | N/F Building Value | Farm Land Value | Farm Building Value | Total Value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| $6,316 | $49,329 | $0 | $0 | $55,645 |

**Land Information**

| Lot Type | Square Feet | Acres |
|---|---|---|
| Lump Sum | 0 | 0.000 |

**Residential Building Information**

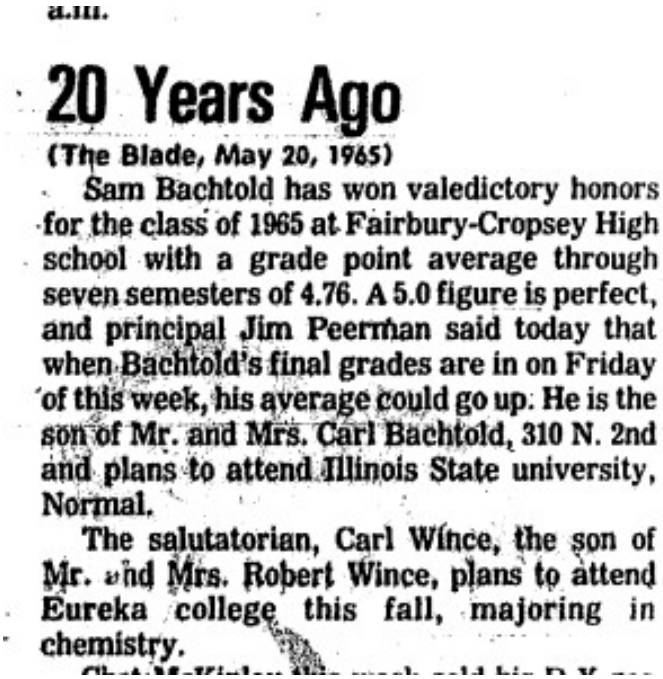
| Occupancy | Style | Year Built | Total Living Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| Single-Family | 2 Story Frame | 1900 | 3,189 |

## The Blade

The Blade can be searched for free at the Dominy Library web site.

A search for “310” gives over 1,000 hits, so that is not useful.

A search for "310 n. 2nd" gave 11 hits.



a.m.

# 20 Years Ago

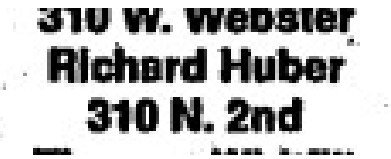
(The Blade, May 20, 1965)

Sam Bachtold has won valedictory honors for the class of 1965 at Fairbury-Cropsey High school with a grade point average through seven semesters of 4.76. A 5.0 figure is perfect, and principal Jim Peerman said today that when Bachtold's final grades are in on Friday of this week, his average could go up. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bachtold, 310 N. 2nd and plans to attend Illinois State university, Normal.

The salutatorian, Carl Wince, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wince, plans to attend Eureka college this fall, majoring in chemistry.

So, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bachtold lived in the house in 1965.

December 6, 1989, a siding company ran an add with list of past customers that had siding or windows installed.



310 W. Webster
Richard Huber
310 N. 2nd

July 13, 1967, an insurance salesman lived there, Chuck Long……...

September 5, 1963, Carl Bachtold lived there and had a driving problem…….

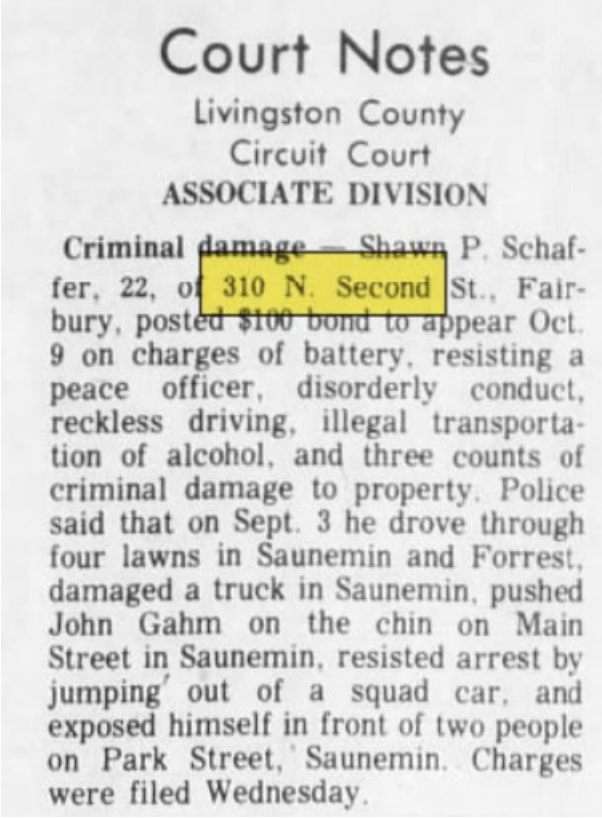
## Suspend License

Secretary of State Charles F. Carpentier has announced the following actions by the Drivers License Division of his office affecting residents of Livingston county:

Suspension—Carl Bachtold, 310 N. 2nd, Fairbury, three violations.

**Pantagraph Archives**

September 11, 1981

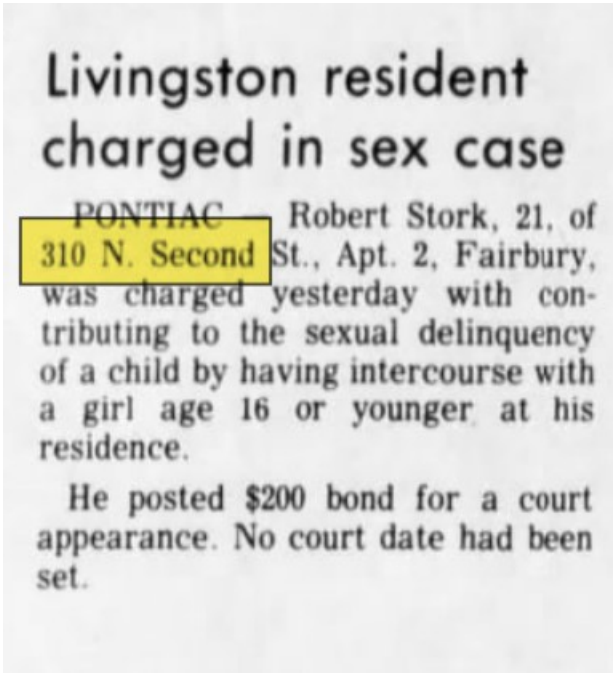


## Court Notes

Livingston County
Circuit Court
ASSOCIATE DIVISION

**Criminal damage** — Shawn P. Schaffer, 22, of 310 N. Second St., Fairbury, posted $100 bond to appear Oct. 9 on charges of battery, resisting a peace officer, disorderly conduct, reckless driving, illegal transportation of alcohol, and three counts of criminal damage to property. Police said that on Sept. 3 he drove through four lawns in Saunemin and Forrest, damaged a truck in Saunemin, pushed John Gahm on the chin on Main Street in Saunemin, resisted arrest by jumping out of a squad car, and exposed himself in front of two people on Park Street, Saunemin. Charges were filed Wednesday.

January 19, 1983

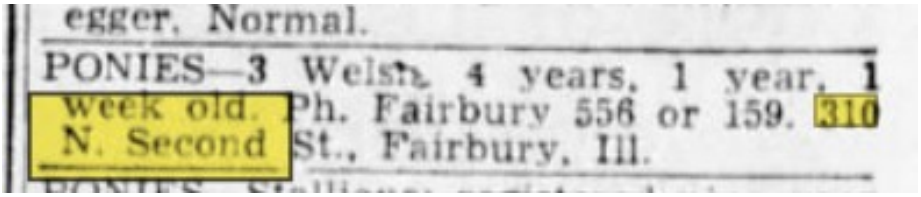


## Livingston resident charged in sex case

PONTIAC — Robert Stork, 21, of 310 N. Second St., Apt. 2, Fairbury, was charged yesterday with contributing to the sexual delinquency of a child by having intercourse with a girl age 16 or younger at his residence.

He posted $200 bond for a court appearance. No court date had been set.

April 18, 1962, somebody had ponies there……..


egger, Normal.

PONIES—3 Welsh, 4 years, 1 year, 1 week old. Ph. Fairbury 556 or 159. 310 N. Second St., Fairbury, Ill.

May 20, 1963, newlyweds move into the house……..

# Melanie Ann Gundy Wed in Chenoa Rite

CHENOA — (PNS) — Miss Melanie Ann Gundy and Ralph David Meyer repeated marriage vows at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Chenoa Methodist Church. The Rev. Jack Newsome officiated at the double ring ceremony in the presence of 200 guests.

Parents of the pair are Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Gundy of Chenoa and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Meyer of Fairbury.

Organist was Miss Martha Kinzer of Chenoa and William Keeleher of Peoria was oloist.

**FOR HER WEDDING,** the bride chose a waltz-length gown of Chantilly lace with a scalloped neckline trimmed with sequins and pearls. Her fingertip veil was attached to a crown of sequins and pearls. She carried a bouquet of pink roses and wore a pearl lavalier and matching earrings, a gift of the bridegroom.

Maid of honor Miss Marcia Tramel of Peoria wore a cherry pink silk organza over taffeta dress styled with a rounded neckline. The full bell skirt was accented in back with a large bow extending to the hemline. She wore a pillbox hat with short veil and carried pink roses and white carnations.

**BRIDESMATRON** was Mrs. David Shoemaker of 1109½ N. Fell, Bloomington, dressed identical to the maid of honor.

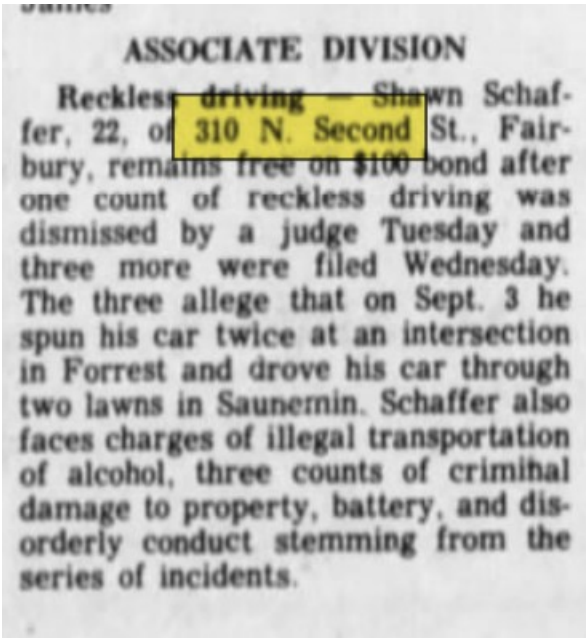
Best man was Howard Leman of Morton. Other attendants were David Shoemaker of 1109½ N. Fell, Roger Heuer of Lexington and Jack Skaggs of Chenoa.

The reception was held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the grade school cafeteria.

After a two-week western wedding trip, the couple will live at 310 N. Second in Fairbury.

The bride is a graduate of Chenoa High School and is employed at Tronc's Drug Store in Chenoa. Mr. Meyer, also a graduate of Chenoa High School, is employed by Huette Cabinet Co., Fairbury.

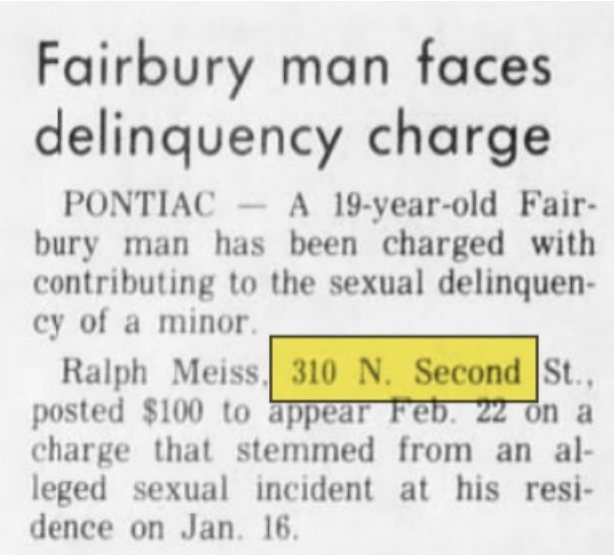
November 19, 1981, Pantagraph……



**ASSOCIATE DIVISION**

**Reckless driving — Shawn Schaffer, 22, of 310 N. Second St., Fairbury, remains free on $100 bond after one count of reckless driving was dismissed by a judge Tuesday and three more were filed Wednesday. The three allege that on Sept. 3 he spun his car twice at an intersection in Forrest and drove his car through two lawns in Saunemin. Schaffer also faces charges of illegal transportation of alcohol, three counts of criminal damage to property, battery, and disorderly conduct stemming from the series of incidents.**

January 25, 1983, Pantagraph……..

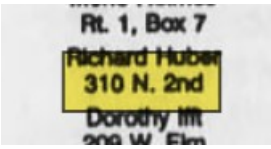


# Fairbury man faces delinquency charge

PONTIAC — A 19-year-old Fairbury man has been charged with contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor.

Ralph Meiss, 310 N. Second St., posted $100 to appear Feb. 22 on a charge that stemmed from an alleged sexual incident at his residence on Jan. 16.

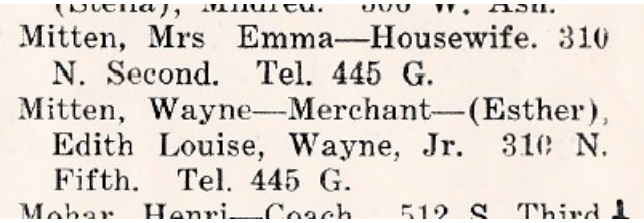
September 14, 1992, pantagraph……...same siding company customer……



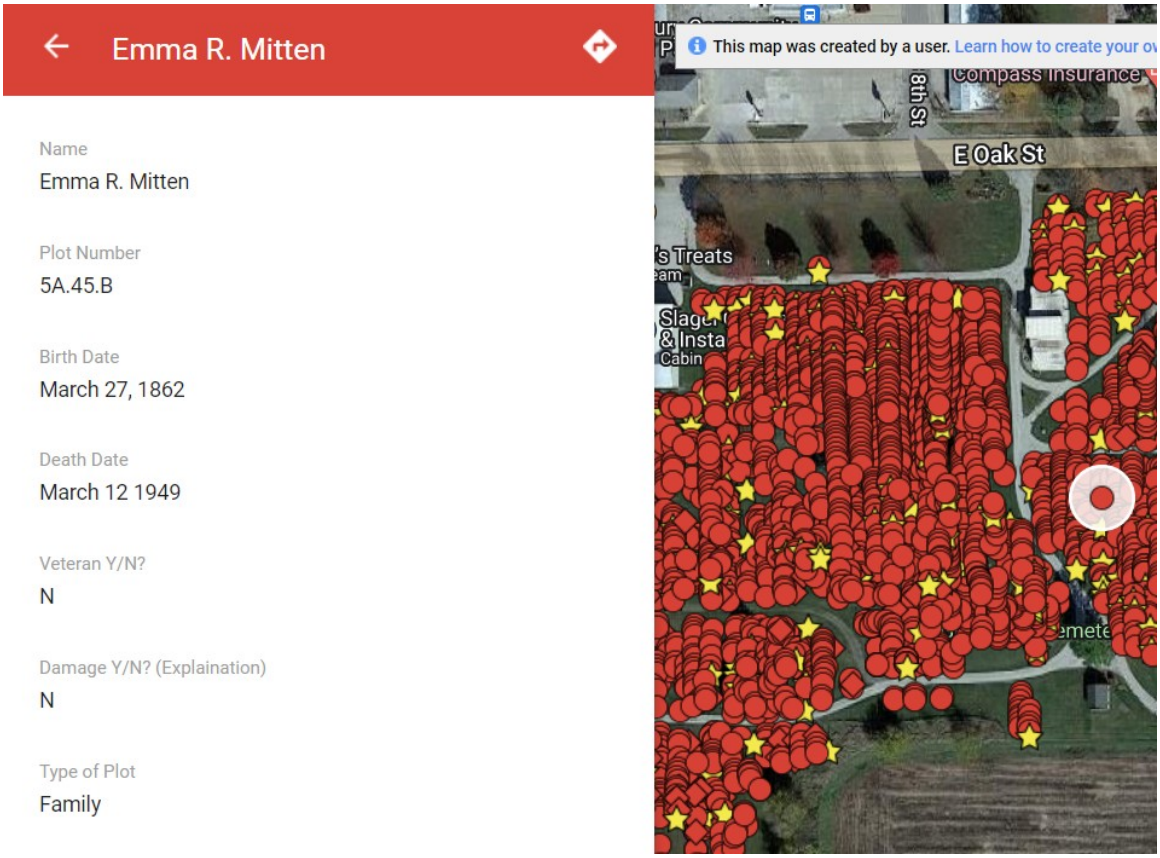

**END OF PANTAGRAPH ARTICLES**

## 1930 Fairbury Phone Book

Who lived there in this phone book?


Mitten, Mrs Emma—Housewife. 310
N. Second. Tel. 445 G.
Mitten, Wayne—Merchant—(Esther),
Edith Louise, Wayne, Jr. 310 N.
Fifth. Tel. 445 G.

Mitten is an old Fairbury name. She died in 1949…….

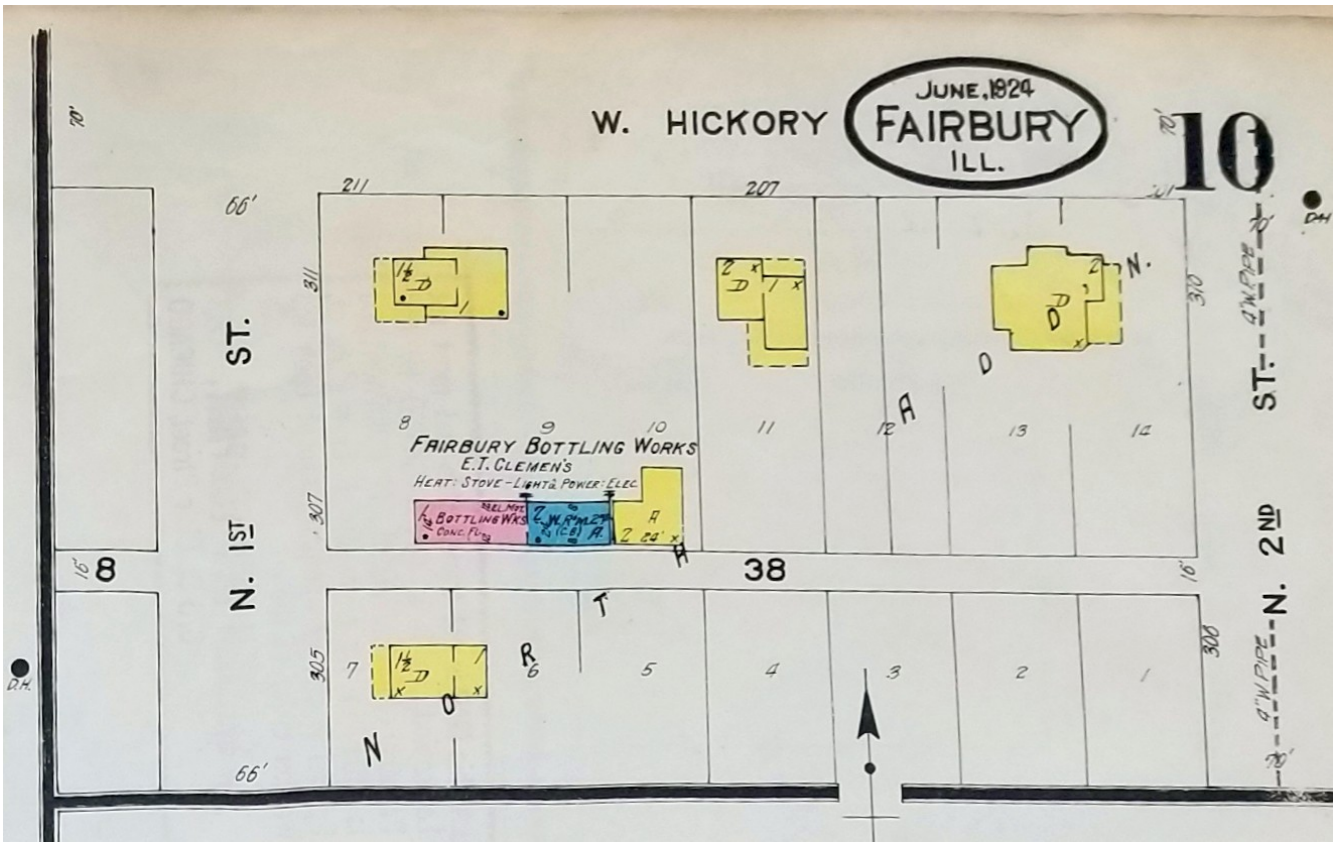


There are some 1940s phone books at the Fairbury Echoes Museum. They will tell who lived there in the 1940s.

**Sanborn Maps**

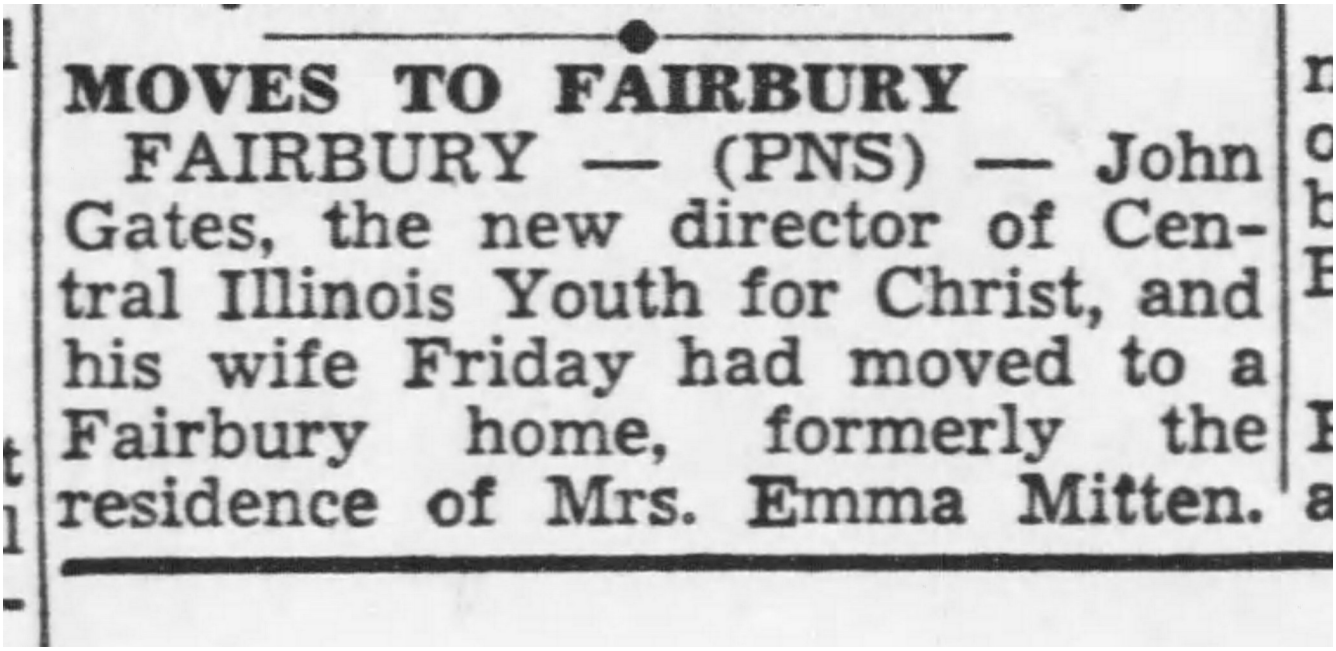
The Sanborn Insurance Company made maps of Fairbury on different dates between 1885 and 1924.

The only Sanborn map that shows this area was the 1924 Sheet 10 map:




The Fairbury Bottling Works was in the Alley. The house is shown at 310 N. 2nd Street.

October 15, 1950, Pantagraph



## MOVES TO FAIRBURY

FAIRBURY — (PNS) — John Gates, the new director of Central Illinois Youth for Christ, and his wife Friday had moved to a Fairbury home, formerly the residence of Mrs. Emma Mitten.

March 13, 1949, pantagraph, obit for Emma Mitten. Timeline wise, it is possible she and her husband built the house in 1900. Her funeral was held at the house.

## Mrs. Rachel Mitten

FAIRBURY. — (PNS) — Mrs. Rachel Emma Mitten, 86, died at 5:30 p. m. Saturday at the Fairbury hospital. She had been a patient at the hospital for one month.

The body was taken to the Cook Funeral home and will be taken to the home Monday. Funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. Tuesday at her home. The Rev. C. L. Shult will officiate. Burial will be in the Graceland cemetery.

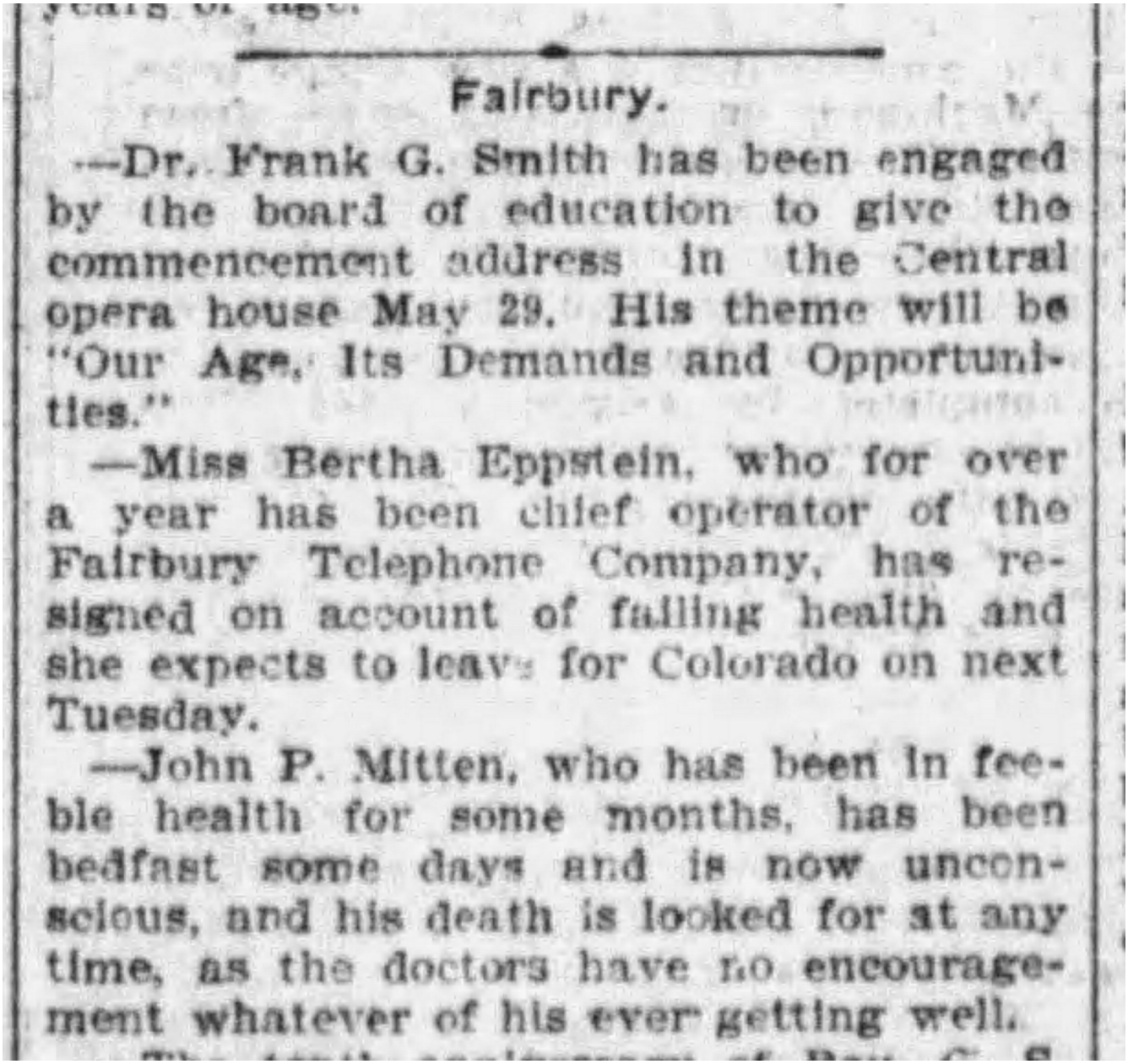
She was born in Avoca township on March 27, 1862, a daughter of John and Rachel Shaw Bennett. She attended country school and the Onarga Seminary and Illinois Wesleyan university Bloomington.

She was married to John P Mitten on June 11, 1884 in Fairbury. They went to Rossville, Ind. where they lived six months, and then returned to Fairbury where she had lived since then.

Surviving are two daughters Miss Edith Mitten of Parkersburg, W. Va., and Mrs. Lucreti Steinberg of Fairbury; one son Wayne B. Mitten of Evanston one sister, Miss Mae Bennett o Fairbury; five grandchildren an

NOTE: If Emma Mitten lived in the house until she died, the 1940s era phone books would confirm she was living there.

May 18, 1906, Pantagraph……..John Mitten is going to die……..



## Fairbury.

—Dr. Frank G. Smith has been engaged by the board of education to give the commencement address in the Central opera house May 29. His theme will be "Our Age, Its Demands and Opportunities."

—Miss Bertha Eppstein, who for over a year has been chief operator of the Fairbury Telephone Company, has resigned on account of failing health and she expects to leave for Colorado on next Tuesday.

—John P. Mitten, who has been in feeble health for some months, has been bedfast some days and is now unconscious, and his death is looked for at any time, as the doctors have no encouragement whatever of his ever getting well.

# John P Mitten

Name
John P Mitten

Plot Number
5A.45.C

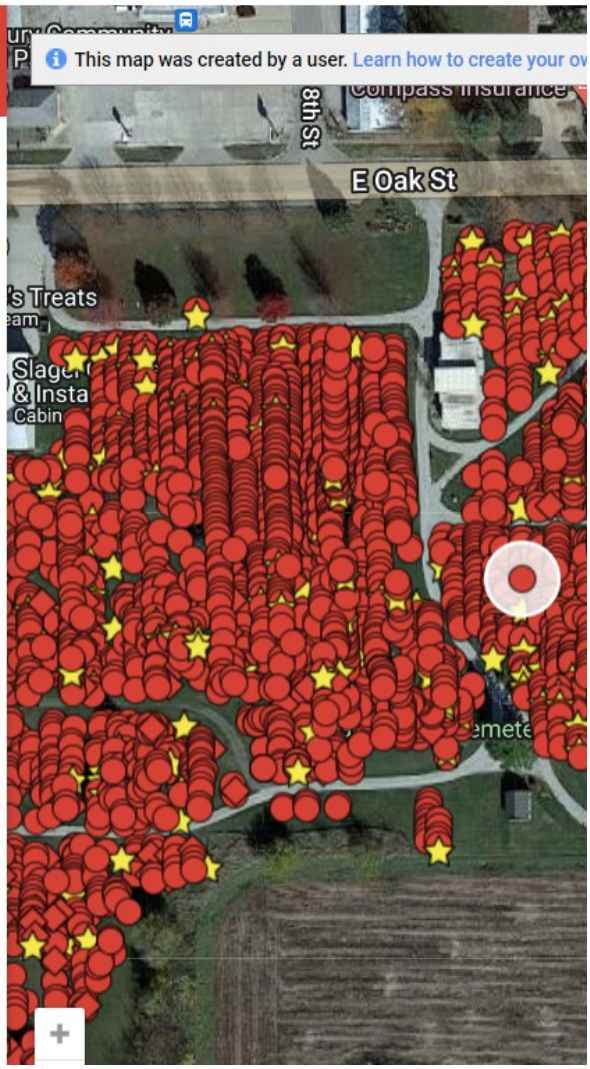
Birth Date
May 5 , 1859

Death Date
May 14, 1906

Veteran Y/N?
N

Damage Y/N? (Explaination)
N

Type of Plot
Family



May 18, 1906, Blade, obit for John P. Mitten……

MAY 18, 1906.

## John P. Mitten

John Philander Mitten was born at Rossville, Clinton county, Indiana, May 15, 1859, being the youngest child of William and Rachel Mitten. His parents died during his childhood, and he came to Illinois when about 16 years of age and lived with an uncle at Arcola. He located at Fairbury in 1882. On June 11, 1884 he married Miss Rachel Emma Bennett. With the exception of one year, when they lived at Rossville, Ind., their home has always been in Fairbury. To them were born three children, Edith, Lucratia and Wayne, who with the wife and mother and one brother of a family of six brothers and sisters, together with a large host of friends and business associates, are left to mourn his untimely departure in the midst of manhoods prime.

He has been in business with Walton Bros. for the last 20 years, and for the last six years, as a member of the Walton Bros. Co. He came of a good Christian family, and there was early instilled into his character those high ideals of honesty, integrity and faithfunless, in all relations of life, which made him a valuable and useful member of the community. He was an ardent worker for the temperance cause and was always found on the right side of every question of moral reform. He was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and for the last year a member of the offical board.

He was a great lover of his home and family, and the mutual devotion of parent and children, made their home life well nigh ideal. While his death came suddenly and was a great shock to the whole community, he was by no means surprised. For years his health has been frail and for some weeks he realized that he was fast approaching that great transition which would usher him into the realm of the noble and more perfect life. His brave heart and courageous faith enabled him to triumph over "the last enemy." His death occurred at 6:15 p. m. Monday, aged 47 years, 9 days.

The funeral services took place from the home at 3 p. m. Wednesday, Rev. J. A. Johnson, his pastor, assisted by Revs. E. S. Wilson and H. C. Hart, officiating. The interment was in the Fairbury cemetery. The bereaved family have the sympathy of all.

## Summary Chronology

1900 Year built per Livingston County Tax Assessor web site
1906 John P. Mitten dies, possibly built the house. Funeral held at the house.
1924 First Sanborn map that shows the house is present.
Fairbury Bottling Works was in the alley to the west.
1930 Mrs. Emma Mitten lived there per Fairbury phone book.
1949 Mrs. Emma Mitten dies, funeral at the house.
1950 John Gates and wife moved into Emma Mitten house.
1962 Someone sold ponies from this address
1963 Newlyweds Melanie Ann Gundy and Ralph David Meyer move in.
1963 Carl Bachtold had his license suspended for 3 violations.
1965 Sam Bachtold valedictorian, son of Carl Bachtold
1967 Chuck Long, Country Companies insurance salesman lived there.
1981 Shawn Schaffer, 22, in trouble with the law. Possible renter?
1983 Robert Stork, 21, in trouble with the law, possible renter?
1989 Richard Huber past customer of siding company.
1992 Richard Huber past customer of siding company.